

Hicaz Taksim Practice

A Cultivated Freshness
March 29, 2018

Friends, we encourage you to improvise in Hicaz makam. One way to begin this journey is to spend time with the bichords, trichords, tetrachords and pentachords below. Set a drone to B and call that "La."

La area

Re area

Start by singing the trichord in the background of the La area and *play* with la, sol and fa. Feel that la is home and sol and fa are some place away from home.

Go on to experiment with the other bichords, trichords and tetrachords situated around la. Try to bring about the feeling of hicaz as found in the compositions we are learning. Perhaps you will find new feelings. We'd love it if you shared them with the class, but it is fine to keep them to yourself.

Move on to the chords built around re. How does this space differ from the la area? Play with the difference in flavor between fa sharp and fa natural. Once you have a taste for the different chords, play freely among them. Try to start and end your taksims on la in order to maintain the feeling of Hicaz.

Take your time. Perhaps just get to know one corner of hicaz, just a few of the chords. Be free and non judgemental. We're not performing, we're getting to know Hicaz. What is it showing you? Or what are you showing yourself through its atmosphere?